

REMARKS

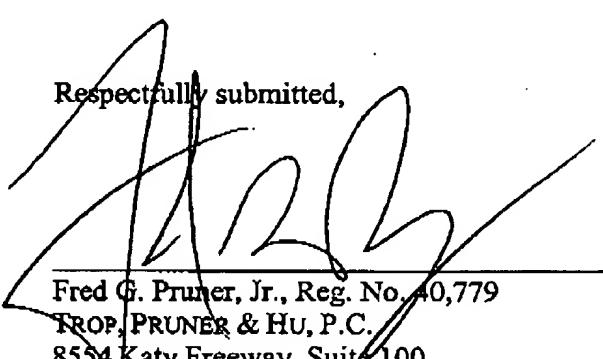
In a Final Office Action mailed on April 21, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 28-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tamura in view of Sharman and Dabral. Claim 20 has been amended to correct a typographical error. More specifically, in line 5 of claim 20, the phrase "pulse signal" has been amended to read "pulse train signal," thereby providing antecedent basis for this limitation. Because this amendment is directed to a matter of form, no further consideration and/or search is required by the Examiner. Additionally, claim 28 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 29. Because dependent claim 29 has already been considered by the Examiner, no further consideration and/or search is required to consider these limitations. Claims 29-34 have been cancelled. Therefore, entry of the amendment is requested.

The Examiner contends that claim 29 is a reinstatement of amended claim 8, now cancelled. Applicant notes that first, claim 29 is not merely a reinstatement of claim 8. Secondly, claim 8 was cancelled, Applicant cancelled this claim without prejudice and did not concede the patentability of this claim in view of the Examiner's rejections. Rather, Applicant traversed this very point in the Appeal Brief filed on September 26, 2003. As previously pointed out and stated in the Appeal Brief, none of the cited references teaches or suggests registers, where each register is associated with a different data bit signal and indicates a degree of skew between a strobe signal and an associated data bit signal. Without such a teaching or suggestion in any of these references, a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established for dependent claim 29, whose limitations now appear in amended claim 28. Therefore, allowance of claim 28 is requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, allowance of claim 28 and a favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance are requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-1504 (ITL.0294US).

Respectfully submitted,


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